

civil society. The Malaysian authorities increased the number of investigations and prosecutions—although the low number of convictions remained disproportionate to the scale of the problem. The 2015 TIP Report states that the Malaysian Government had three convictions of traffickers in 2014, a substantial decrease from the nine convictions reported in the 2014 TIP Report.

While Malaysia has taken small steps that seem to indicate some recent progress, these steps do not appear to me to be sufficient to justify an upgrade. Evidence of the trafficking problems in Malaysia continued outside of the 2015 TIP reporting period, which ended on March 31, 2015. For example, in May 2015, mass graves believed to contain bodies of 139 Rohingya trafficking victims were found in abandoned jungle camps along Malaysia's northern border, along with pens likely used as cages for the victims.

Malaysia is a party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP, negotiations. The juxtaposition of the administration's pursuit of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in the case of Malaysia and the upgrade of Malaysia's TIP tier ranking at the same time has raised concerns among some observers regarding the integrity and veracity of the 2015 ranking process.

I look forward to hearing more from the administration in the days ahead about the considerations taken into account for the TIP ranking process and, in particular, the decision to upgrade Malaysia. That is why Chairman CORKER and I scheduled a hearing on this issue in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Archibald MacLeish, the writer and former Librarian of Congress, said:

There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American Dream.

We owe it to the millions of men, women, and children around the world who suffer from the horrifying depredations of modern slavery to maintain America's leadership, reputation, and resolve in the fight against human trafficking.●

RECOGNIZING YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on September 5, 1995, York County Technical College opened its doors in a hotel in Wells, ME, with five associate's degree and certificate programs and 156 students. Now known as York County Community College, the college in 2015 has three campuses, more than 30 programs, and some 1,700 full and part-time students. I congratulate this remarkable institution for 20 years of contributions to the people of Maine's southernmost county and to our entire State.

This truly is a community effort. In the years before the school was established, business, civic, and education

leaders in York County formed Partners for Progress, a coalition to address the challenge of developing a better-trained workforce for a fast-changing global economy. The demand for technical education was immediately apparent: by 1997, in just its third year, the numbers for enrollment and programs both tripled. In recent years, York County Community College has twice been named one of the fastest-growing community colleges in the Nation.

In 2003, Maine's outstanding technical college system expanded its mission to become a community college system that enhances skills, strengthens our State's economy, and increases access to college. Nearly one-half of York County Community College students are first-generation college students, and some 40 percent of graduates go on to enroll at a 4-year college. Under the leadership of President Barbara Finkelstein, a dedicated faculty and staff, and a committed YCCC Foundation, York County Community College reaches out in many ways. With programs for seniors and students of high school age and younger, lifelong learning is a core part of the school's mission. The Center for Entrepreneurship encourages the innovation that is essential to our economy. Arts and culture offerings and the "Eggs and Issues" speakers program enrich the entire community.

The people of Maine are proud of our community college system. The reason is clear: students of all ages and backgrounds are finding affordable tuition and the skills they need to succeed. They are finding real value.

York County Community College is an important part of that success. Since its inception, the college has educated more than 20,000 people in many fields, including medical fields, technology, business management, skilled trades, and many other occupations. It has fueled the economy, created opportunity, and helped improve the quality of life for all. The accomplishments of York County Community College during the past 20 years are inspiring, and I know the best is yet to come.●

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize three outstanding Minnesota police officers. The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the largest association representing Minnesota's rank-and-file police officers, recently met for its annual conference and named Sergeant Mark Ficcadenti of the St. Paul Police Department Police Officer of the Year and gave Honorable Mention Awards to Officer Mark Ross of the St. Paul Police Department and State Trooper Brian Beuning.

Sergeant Ficcadenti is a 30-year veteran of the St. Paul Police Department

where he serves an indispensable role performing community outreach and forging relationships with the most vulnerable immigrant populations. Sergeant Ficcadenti organizes events such as the East African Junior Police Academy, Ramadan celebrations with the local Somali community, and the "Safe and Sound" program that allows people to meet and get to know local police officers. His tireless efforts to ensure that the police department serves all communities has promoted safety, encouraged community cooperation, and fostered trust in law enforcement.

Honorable Mention Award recipient Officer Mark Ross of the St. Paul Police Department is a former school resource officer, whose awareness prompted him to look into a female high school student's frequent absences and suspicious relationship with her father. After some investigation, Ross revealed that the student's father had been abusing and neglecting the young girl for years. The father was convicted and is now serving a 25-year sentence in prison. As a result of Officer Ross' actions, the young woman has graduated from high school and has been accepted into a Minnesota college.

The second Honorable Mention Award recipient, Minnesota State Trooper Beuning, exhibited heroism and outstanding professionalism when dispatched last year to help a woman trapped in her car during a flash flood in Beaver Creek, MN. After wading through knee-deep waters, State Trooper Beuning calmed the trapped woman by standing next to the car and speaking to her through a cracked window. Seconds after Trooper Beuning and firefighters removed the woman through the window of her car, the vehicle was swept away by floodwaters. Three months after his act of bravery, Beuning was given the Officer of the Month Award by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

I join all of my fellow Minnesotans in applauding these three distinguished public servants. I would also like to thank not only these three individuals but all of Minnesota's brave law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe.●

RECOGNIZING INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to one of the country's exemplary organizations, Intermountain Healthcare, which this year celebrates 40 years of service to people in Utah and the surrounding area. Based in Salt Lake City, Intermountain Healthcare has been a longtime provider of top-of-the-line care, as well as a leading example among the country's integrated health systems.

Prior to the organization's inception in 1975, the 15 hospitals that would become Intermountain Healthcare were administered and operated by the